

This year's conference theme will be „The changing face of conflict“

In 2014, an estimated number of 126,059 fatalities were demanded by organized violence. This marks the first time since the Rwandan genocide in 1994, where the number exceeded 100,000 casualties in a year. Ignoring this issue is almost impossible, since terroristic acts, most recently the Paris attacks by ISIL in November 2015, and raging civil wars in Syria and many other regions are covered in the news almost every single day.

Starting from the 21<sup>st</sup> century, conflicts have reached threatening levels indicated by nuclear proliferation, ideological warfare and pre-emptive invasions of sovereign nations. In the past, most conflicts were fought between nations through their respective armies, caused by clashes of interest. Those conflicts were intense, but due to the induced economic and social burdens on the nations involved, wars were not protracted.

Nowadays, methods, interests and justifications change over time, faster than ever, and are reflected in the occurring of the conflict. Most casualties are civilians, with millions fleeing from home. Asymmetric warfare has shaped the modern face of conflict: the importance of non-state actors, who try to gain power in fragile states, has increased significantly over the past few years. This evolution of conflicts remains a security dilemma, which is yet to be solved and is still relevant to international relations.

The United Nations have always advocated for peace, setting World Peace as their ultimate goal, promoting peace and peacekeeping whenever possible. 70 years after its creation, it is time to reflect and set new directions for the future. New possible causes for conflicts, such as the scarcity of resources, have risen and demand solutions to protect not only our planet, but the people and their peace. What needs to be done to ensure a safe environment for every human being? How can we fight terrorism? Is there a way to secure human rights in conflict areas?

These questions need answers, answers which need to be explored by the delegates of MUNOL 2016. We wish them good luck in finding promising solutions and a successful conference.